



EAGC QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

For the Period of:	July to September 2013				
Name of the Grantee Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)				
Project Title:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.				
Grant Agreement Number:	EAG-STA-012-029	Project Startup Date:	July .2013	Project end date:	Dec.2013
Project Location:	Countries: Kenya, Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and Burundi				

1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of July-September 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-EATH funding support. The activities are being implemented following a cost extension granted to EAGC in June 2013. The extension was aimed at carrying out the following activities:

- a) Design and produce marketing materials to capture success and strengths and present EAGC value proposition
- b) Maintain market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN to support timely, relevant and timely Market Intelligence to EAGC members
- c) Strengthen the Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System and promote use of data to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.
- d) Lead the registration/training of private sector contributors to National Food Balance Sheets (NFBS), coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly/quarterly.
- e) Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.

2. Summary of Accomplished Activities in Quarter 3 (July-Sep) 2013

1. EAGC Regional and Country Office Operations

Through the funding from USAID EATH, EAGC continued to deliver services to its members and stakeholders across the region. The regional and country offices in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania were fully operational. During the quarter, the following changes occurred:

- a) EAGC Uganda moved to its new offices located in Muyenga- Galukande Close, Opp. Kironde Close.
- b) Some EAGC staff members left the organization including: Judith Rotich (Program Officer-Training and Capacity Building for EAGI), Samuel Munyasia (Field Officer – Lower Eastern Region-Kenya) , Erickson Oduya (Program Officer – Marketing Information Systems) and Jackson Kiraka–(Program Officer – Marketing Information Systems)
- c) Recruitments were done and the new staff who joined EAGC are:
 - Calvince Onyuka -Field Officer, Central Rift-Kenya
 - Kennedy Wakhungu - Field Officer - Lower Eastern Kenya

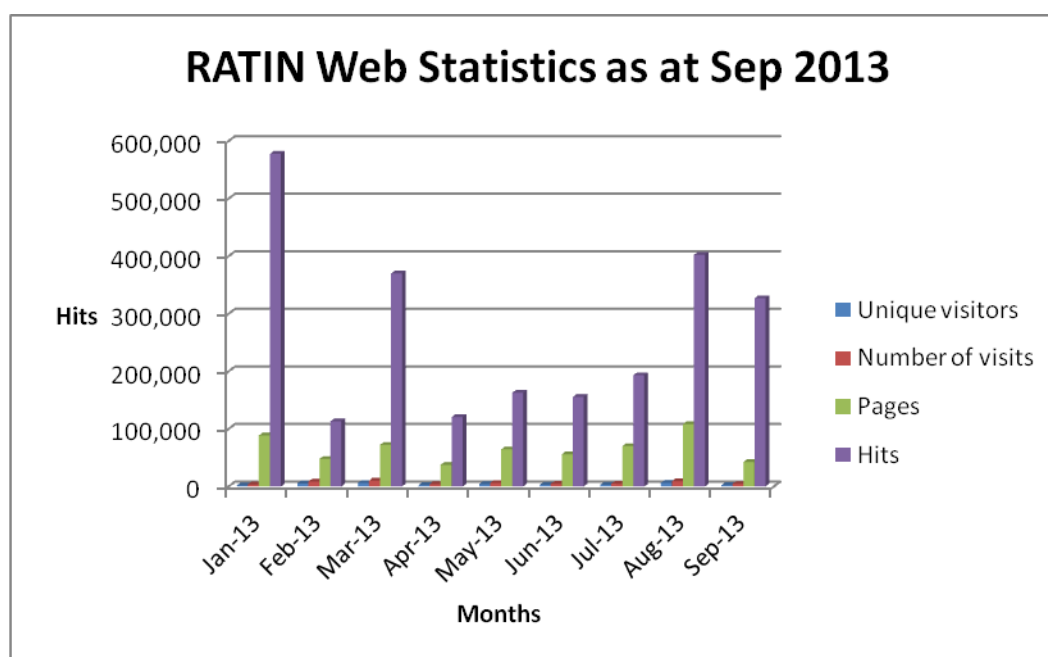
- Davine Minayo –Market Linkages Officer-Kenya.
- Sheilla Mulli -Program Officer, MIS
- Gertrude Nyanzi - Events Assistant for the 5th African Grain Trade

- The process of recruiting the Tanzania Country Manager commenced.
- Membership recruitment continued with 3 new members joining EAGC- (Agro-Ventures Ltd-Kenya, Rewa-Uganda and Rwanda Grains and Cereal Corporation-Rwanda).
- To ensure better quality service delivery to its members, EAGC carried out the members' need assessment in Tanzania. The assessment was to address the following:
 - The priority areas that members feel that EAGC need to intervene.
 - The level of satisfaction with EAGC services to members
 - Kind of benefits received through EAGC Membership
 - Rating the understanding about EAGC role as a membership organization and members' expectations.

2. **Maintain Market and Border Monitors Submitting Daily Price Data To RATIN To Support Timely, Relevant And Timely Market Intelligence To EAGC Members**

a) **Market Information Generation and Dissemination in RATIN**

EAGC continued monitoring the various 29 markets and 6 border points within the period. This has contributed to the timely transmission of market prices by 9.00am each day and cross border trade flows by end of each day. The monitors were supervised and mentored throughout the period. This resulted to good quality and relevant data transmitted to RATIN. The RATIN website has been used by various grain stakeholders across the region and it shows that in this quarter, there was 110% increase in the RATIN web hits compared to last quarter.(See the chart below).



b) **Weekly Reports showing market trends and food security in the region developed**

EAGC analyzed data received by RATIN leading to production of the weekly reports. The reports were produced each week of the month and posted on RATIN. EAGC has developed an editing mechanism of the weekly report to ensure quality control of the information reported through RATIN. The weekly reports are based on data

from RATIN and also from the daily sector reported collected by EAGC each day.

RATIN SMS Message Translation

EAGC continued promoting the use of the SMS system in all the countries where EAGC is represented. However, there's limited resources to promote RATIN SMS facility particularly to small-holder farmers who don't access the web. To support the system, EAGC translated the messages received through the SMS into Kinyarwanda and to Swahili. This is expected to increased use of the SMS system in the region. Below is an example of the SMS translation:

- *RATIN Prevailing **PRODUCT** Prices of maize in Kigali Market in Rwfranc/Kg as at 2013-08-30: Wholesale=204, Retail=214. Visit www.ratin.net for detailed market information. Service by EAGC*
- RATIN Igiciro cy'ibigoli ku isoko rya Kigali ku itariki ya 30/08/2013: Kurangura=204frw ku kilo, Kudandaza=214Frw ku kilo. Sura urubuga rwa www.ratin.net urebe amakuru yose yerekeye amasoko. Iyi serivisi muyigetzaho na EAGC.

c) Linkage with other MIS service Providers.

To ensure sustainability of RATIN, EAGC pursued the option of linking with other MIS service providers on a data sharing arrangement. During the month, EAGC discussed linkage with the CARANA Post Harvest Handling in Rwanda. On the way forward, EAGC will take over the PHHS process and use the information to enhance the report developed under RATIN and provide the users with a more in-depth analysis and market intelligence through provision of wider breadth of information.

EAGC also hosted the Market Information Sub- group under FNSWG to finalize a data sharing mechanism with EAGC. In Uganda, EAGC is part of the Agri-Profocus group. This is a network of MIS service provided in Uganda. The team will host the National MIS symposium in September.

3. Strengthen the Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System and promote use of data to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.

Follow up on the RTVT Warehouses

During the 3rd quarter of 2013, EAGC teams at the country offices continued monitor the warehouses in which the RTVT system was installed. This involved supervision, and re-training of the users within the warehouses. So far data from the RUDI and Kibaigwa in Tanzania and the WFP warehouses have continued to send in data through the system.

4. Lead the registration/training of private sector contributors to National Food Balance Sheets (NFBS), coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly/quarterly.

EAGC holds National Food Balance Sheet Committee Meetings in Kenya

On 30th July 2013, EAGC and EATH co-hosted the Kenya Food Balance Sheet Committee meeting. The main participants in the meeting were EAGC members and Kenya Food Balance Sheet committee team. The aim of the meeting was to create awareness on the regional food balance sheet, and to update the team on the conclusions and way forward after the Arusha Regional Food Balance Sheet Meeting. The team implored EAGC to use the food Balance Sheet as a policy tool to advice the various regional governments to support trade within the East Africa Region.

- **Recruitment of Food Balance Sheet Private Sector contributors**

EAGC continued supporting the recruitment of the food balance sheet private sector contributors in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Some of the recruited companies have continued transmitting data on the food balance sheet. However, data uploading have been noted as the main constraint.

5. Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.

- **Meeting to Review and Validate the EAC Harmonized Standards Trainers Guide and Promotional Materials held.**

EAGC and USAID EA Trade Hub called for a stakeholders meeting to review and validate the materials on EAC Harmonized Standards already developed by USAID EATH. The Validation Meeting took place on Thursday 15th August 2013 at EAGC. This followed a regional meeting in Arusha in July 2013 that approved and declared the 18 draft harmonized quality standards on staple foods as the new East African Standards (EAS).

During the validation meeting, the following materials were reviewed:

- EAC Harmonized Standards Trainers Guide
- EAC Harmonized Standards Promotional Materials

The meeting recommended that all documents be edited and revised by a technical expert to ensure that they conform to the final EAC standards and the practice. Attached are the minutes of the meeting.



Meeting_minutes_validation of materials fc

- **Training farmers on new EAC grain standards and MIS during the EAGC Agribusiness Expo in Nakuru**

A total of 459 farmers from Nakuru and other counties in Kenya benefited from the training offered by EAGC and its partners during the Agribusiness Expo in Nakuru. EAGC teamed up CGA, Lesiolo Grain Handlers and Intertek to deliver a comprehensive farmer training during the Kenya Agribusiness Expo. The training program was organized as below:

- a) CGA- Agronomic issues and Post Harvest Handling including aggregation.
- b) Lesiolo GHL- Quality analysis, drying, Fumigation and Storage
- c) Intertek- Warehouse Inspection and Stock Monitoring
- d) EAGC- EAC Grades and Standards ,Warehouse Receipt Process and Market Information Systems/RATIN

- **Preparation for the Stakeholders' Forums to share the new EAC standards in 5 countries**

EAGC has been preparing to hold the Grain Stakeholders Forums to create awareness on the new EAC standards. Dates for these forums were set as shown below:

- Uganda- 17th Oct 2013
- Tanzania-24th Oct 2013
- Rwanda- 5th Nov 2013
- Burundi- 7th Nov 2013
- Kenya- 21st Nov 2013

The aim of these forums is to share the new 22 EAC standards recently approved by the East Africa Standards Committee (EASC) and identify partners to work with, in the implementation of the new standards for significant grassroots reach.

3. Other Non-Grant activities completed

- **Launch of 5th African grain Trade Summit 2013**

EAGC hosted the media launch of the 5th Africa grain trade summit scheduled for 1-3rd October 2013. The event was held on 30th July 2013. During the Media launch EAGC and the summit were covered in the various media in Kenya.

- **Budget Synopsis in Kenya.**

EAGC held the annual Budget synopsis on 30th July 2013. EAGC hosts the budget synopsis in the five EAC countries to simplify the national budgets read across the region and the implication on the grain sector. During the meeting, EAGC members appreciated the key issues that may affect the sector and asked the secretariat to engage with the government on changes in the use of the national funds in support of their business.

- **EAGC Undertakes Grain Sector Scoping Survey in South Sudan**

EAGC in partnership with, German International Cooperation (GIZ) undertook the Grain Sector Scoping Survey in South Sudan. The survey was meant to support the development of an operational plan that would guide the institutional development of EAGC South Sudan chapter. The survey entailed the following:

- Desk review to understand the policies and priorities of the Government of South Sudan and the priorities of development partners;
- Do a rapid assessment/scoping of the grain sector in South Sudan through consultation with key grain sector stakeholders including farmers, traders, processors and institutions supporting or regulating the grain sector including the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry Cooperatives and Rural Development. In total eighteen (18) participants representing 13 entities participated in the assessment.

Following the completion of the survey, EAGC held a stakeholders' workshop on 22nd July 2013 and it was attended by 22 representatives drawn from farmer's organization, traders, millers, input suppliers, equity bank, development programs and representatives of potential funders including USAID, DFID and World Bank. The participants provided input into the development of the operational plan that comprises of a concept of service delivery, financing strategy and organizational structure. A key output of the workshop was the formation of an interim committee cutting across the various stakeholder groups that will drive the process for the EAGC institutional development in South Sudan.

- **EAGC holds the Agribusiness Expo in Nakuru Kenya**

The EAGC Agri-business Expo 2013-Kenya edition took place on August 1-2, 2013 in Nakuru at the Kabarak University. The Expo organized by EAGC in partnership with Kabarak University and Farming Systems of Kenya (FSK) brought together approximately 8,000 and 72 exhibitors.

- **EAGC launches WRS in Laikipia County**

On 14th August 2013, EAGC launched WRS in Laikipia County at a warehouse owned and operated by Ngarua Cereals and produce SHG. The launch was graced by Hon. Joshua Irungu-the Governor for Laikipia County.

The warehouse has a capacity of 1500 MT with enough space for storing maize and beans. In the last season, the warehouse has been able to aggregate 1,396 (90 kg) bags of maize, out of which 700 bags have been sold to traders at Ksh 2500 per bag. The stock in the warehouse currently is 696 (90 kg) bags.

4. Activities planned for the next Quarter (October- Dec 2013):

- i) Print the EAGC marketing materials
- ii) Print the EAGC new STS Handbook
- iii) Hold national grain stakeholders forums and create awareness on harmonized EAC quality standards and RFBS.
- iv) Hold National Food Balance Sheet Committee meeting and follow up on private sector data contribution to RFBS.
- v) Follow-up with RTVT registered warehouses to transmit data
- vi) Continuous market and border monitoring for RATIN update

5. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:

Results	Milestones	Achievement as at August 2013
Activity # 1: EAGC Institutional Strengthening		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders kept aware of EAGC programs and services Increased EAGC membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of potential members developed by end of Aug.2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scoping for potential members is ongoing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC membership development materials produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of marketing materials was finalized and they are ready for publication.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% increase in membership by end of Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total EAGC Members stands at 130 to date. Member visits done in Tanzania
Activity # 2: Strengthening of Structured Trading Systems		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness materials for new EAC standards translated and printed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 translations done (Swahili & Kinyarwanda) by end of July 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation to begin once the materials are reviewed and edited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness campaigns on harmonized EAC standards carried out Stakeholders use harmonized EAC standards Support national governments and regulatory authorities in the adoption and planning for roll out of standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 125 graders trained on new EAC standards by Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness forums scheduled to start in October 2013.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC signs MOUs with National Bureaus of Standards on implementation of new standards by Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU between EAGC and Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) developed and submitted to UNBS for review. Draft MOU with Tanzania Bureau of Standards is being developed.
Activity# 3: Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RATIN maintained to offer regional market and trade information • Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) updated and maintained • Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in RATIN web & SMS hits by end of Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110% increase in RATIN hits in quarter 3 compared to quarter 4.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in RFBS data contributors by end of project extension period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFBS Committee Meeting held in Nairobi.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All registered warehouses transmit real time volumes on regular basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous

EAGC Secretariat